

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9-10, and 22-37 and 39-46 are presently active in this case, Claims 22-37 have been previously withdrawn from consideration, Claims 1, 2, 4, 39, 40, 42, and 44 amended and Claims 11-21 and 38 canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 1, 9, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,235,634 to White et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,403,924 to Hayashi; Claims 2, 3 and 39-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Hayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,286, 296 to Sato et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,083,566 to Whitesell and U.S. Patent No. 6,331,212 to Mezey, Sr.; Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Hayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,389,970 to Edgerton; Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Hayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,079,928 to Theriault et al.; Claims 10 and 14 were rejected under 3 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. and Hayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,735,961 to Shimada; and Claims 38 and 44-46 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Moore for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 38 and 44-46. In order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 38. In this regard, Applicants have also amended Claim 1 to correct the antecedent basis problem noted with respect to Claim 38 in paragraph two of the outstanding Official Action.

Therefore, Claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

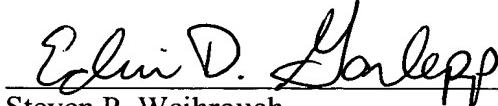
In addition, Applicants have amended allowable Claim 44 to include the limitations of original base Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 44-46 are also in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed October 14, 2003 has not yet been considered and acknowledged on the record. Attached hereto is a copy of the IDS including the PTO Form 1449, as well as the date-stamped filing receipt indicating the filing thereof. Applicants respectfully request that this IDS be acknowledged on record and an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 be returned to Applicants in the next communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330

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OSMM&N File No. 215872US2

Serial No. 09/986,894

In the matter of the Application of: Akira YONEMIZU, et al.

For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND SUBSTRATE
PROCESSING METHOD

Dept.: E/M
By: GJM/EDG/eac

Due Date: 10/14/2003

The following has been received in the U.S. Patent Office on the date stamped hereon:

- Check for \$180.00
- Dep. Acct. Order Form
- Information Disclosure Statement
- PTO-1449
- Cited References
- Search Report Japanese



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Docket No. 215872US2

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O I P E S C I T T
U S P T O
T R A D E M A R K
O F F I C E

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Akira YONEMIZU, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/986,894

GAU: 1763

FILED: November 13, 2001

EXAMINER: MOORE, K.

FOR: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed in the Japanese Office Action dated 9/16/2003, and shown on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

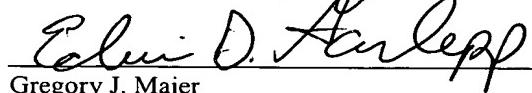
- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599

Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 05/03)

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Form PTO 1449
(Modified)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
215872US2SERIAL NO.
09/986,894

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT
Akira YONEMIZU, et al.FILING DATE
November 13, 2001GROUP
1763

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	AO	10-98037	4/14/1998	Japan	X	
	AP	59-112870	6/29/1984	Japan (w/ English Abstract)		X
	AQ					
	AR					
	AS					
	AT					
	AU					
	AV					

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AW	
	AX	
	AY	
	AZ	

 Additional References sheet(s) attached

Examiner

Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.